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SUBJECT:SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS

FOR STATUS LNO

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO MNS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

THE U.S. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN A HEARING CHAIRED BY SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL (D-R.I.) NOVEMBER 5 HEARD TESTIMONY FROM A NUMBER OF WITNESSES ON THE RESOLUTION (H.J.RES.549, AS AMENDED) CALLING FOR APPROVAL OF THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES INCLUDED DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE ROBERT INGERSOLL, AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, AND REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM J. CROWE, JR., REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION WERE ALSO HEARD, AS WAS MR. ERWIN D. CANHAM, WHO SERVED AS PLEBI-SCITE COMMISSIONER.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THEY SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION WHICH CONTAINS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THE DELEGATION HEADED BY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BETHWEL HENRY, INCLUDED SENATOR JOHN

MANGEFEL AND CONGRESSMAN RAYMOND SETIK. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL KALEB UDUI. IN THEIR STATEMENT, THE DELEGATION SAID: "THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DOES NOT OPPOSE IN PRINCIPLE THE EXPRESSED DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS TO SEPARATE FROM MICRONESIA AND ENTER INTO POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT IS, HOWEVER, ESSENTIAL TO THE FAITHFUL DISCHARGE OF AN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION THAT THIS SEPARATION BE EFFECTED IN A MANNER WHICH PROTECTS THE INTERESTS OF THE REMAINING DISTRICTS, AND WHICH PRESERVES THE ABILITY OF THOSE DISTRICTS TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION". ON QUESTIONING BY SENATOR PELL, THE DELEGATION STATED THAT IT SUPPORTS THE SENATE'S APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATION CALLING FOR A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

TESTIFYING ALSO AT THE HEARING WAS A DELEGATION FROM THE MARIANAS HEADED BY SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO AND CONSISTING OF THE HONORABLE DANIEL MUNA AND MR. MANUEL SABLAN. SENATOR TENORIO AS SPOKESMAN REVIEWED THE HISTORY AND LONG DESIRE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FOR POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE ROBERT INGERSOLL TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THE GRANTING OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS IS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. HE NOTED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAD BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED ON THE PROGRESS OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE TRUST TERRITORY. HE STATED THAT IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE U.S. THAT THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT BE TERMINATED SIMULTANEOUSLY FOR ALL AREAS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY AND THAT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME THE U.S. INTENDS TO TAKE UP THE MATTER OF TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP WITH THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

MR. ERWIN D. CANHAM, WHO SERVED AS PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER
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TO SUPERVISE THE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE LAST JUNE 17, REVIEWED THE ORGANIZATION AND RESULTS OF THE PLEBISCITE IN WHICH 78.8 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS FAVORED THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT. SENATOR CHARLES PERCY (D-ILL.) REQUESTED MR. CANHAM'S PERSONAL ADVICE TO THE COMMITTEE AS TO THE COVENANT, AND MR. CANHAM, NOTING THAT HE WAS DEPARTING FROM HIS LONG AND PROPER NEUTRALITY ON THE SUBJECT, CAME

OUR IN STRONG SUPPORT OF EARLY FAVORABLE ACTION BY THE SENATE ON THE COVENANT.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS REVIEWED THE BACKGROUND OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND DISCUSSED ITS RELATIONSHIP TO FUTURE STATUS DETERMINATION FOR THE OTHER DISTRICTS. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM HIS TESTIMONY AT THE HEARING WHICH WAS CHAIRED BY SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL (D-R.I).

"THE PLEBISCITE IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WAS AN ACT OF SELF DETERMINATION, A RIGHT CLEARLY SET FORTH IN THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, AND A RIGHT WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS HONORED. GIVEN A FREE AND FAIR CHOICE, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE SPOKEN.

"WITH RESPECT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, THE MARIANAS HAVE NOT BEEN SINGLED OUT FROM THE REST OF THE TRUST TERRITORY FOR SPECIAL OR PRIORITY TREATMENT. THE OTHER DISTRICTS WILL HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE ONCE THEY ARE READY TO PUT THE QUESTION TO THEIR PEOPLE IN A U.N. OBSERVED PLEBISCITE. WE HAD HOPED THAT THIS ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION COULD HAVE OCCURRED ALONG WITH THE VOTE IN THE MARIANAS. IN FACT, AN AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT IN ALL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ON A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION LAST OCTOBER, NEARLY FOUR MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION.

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"SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REFERRED THE DRAFT COMPACT BACK TO ITS NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE EARLIER THIS YEAR WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO RENEGOTIATE THE FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT. THIS ACTION, PLUS A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF A TERRITORY-WIDE STATUS REFERENDUM AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, HAS THUS PLACED THE ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE CAROLINES AND THE MARSHALLS FARTHER INTO THE FUTURE THAN ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED.

"IN THE MEANTIME, PROGRESS TOWARDS SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS IS PROCEEDING. THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, THE HOLDING OF WHICH THE UNITED STATES FIRST CALLED FOR SOME THREE YEARS AGO, IS ABOUT TO BE CONCLUDED. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAS BEEN MADE IN AN IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION OF POLITICAL FREEDOM IN ACTION. DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN AIRED AND COMPROMISES HAVE BEEN REACHED AS THE ELECTED AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF MICRONESIA HAVE SOUGHT COMMON SOLUTIONS AND UNITY AMONG THEMSELVES. THIS LATTER OBJECTIVE HAS OUR FULL SUPPORT, AND THE U.S. CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT OUT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE FUTURE POLITICAL STA-

TUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE WILL COME A UNITED
MICRONESIA OF THE MARSHALL AND CAROLINE ISLANDS BASED
ON THE FREELY EXPRESSED WILL OF ALL OF THE PEOPLES CONCERNED

"THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS OBSERVED WITH GREAT INTER-
EST THE PROGRESS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TOWARDS THEIR
DESIRED FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. IT WOULD SEEM NOW THAT
THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS ACQUIESCED, ALBEIT WITH SOME
RELUCTANCE AND REGRET, TO THE POPULAR WILL OF
THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT. THIS ACCEPTANCE OF A

SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE MARIANAS IN RECOGNITION
OF THE RESULTS OF THE PLEBISCITE, WAS CLEARLY STATED IN
A RECENT CABLE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

"AT THE SAME TIME LEGITIMATE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN OVER
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THE IMPACT OF THE SEPARATION OF THE MARIANAS ON THE ADMIN-
ISTRATION OF THE REMAINING DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRI-
TORY HAVE BEEN VOICED BY SEVERAL LEADERS OF THE CONGRESS OF
MICRONESIA. THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT
OF INTENSIVE AND CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRA-
TION, THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. AN AD HOC COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN WORKING FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS ON CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARIANAS, AND ASSESSING THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THIS ON THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND ON THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

"WHILE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WANTS A SMOOTH AND EFFECTIVE
ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS SO THAT
THESE ISLANDS, UNDER TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, CAN
PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TOWARD THE FORMATION OF
THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT UNDER THEIR OWN CONSTITUTION, IT DOES
NOT WISH TO SEE THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS AND WELFARE OF
THE PEOPLES OF THE OTHER DISTRICTS HARMED IN ANY WAY IN
THE PROCESS. CLEARLY THE SECRETARIAL ORDER CREATING A
SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION IN THE MARIANAS SHOULD AND WILL BE
DESIGNED TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF
THE TRUST TERRITORY AND NOT JUST THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS
DISTRICT.

"ONE OBVIOUS CONSEQUENCE OF THE POLITICAL SEPARATION OF
THE MARIANAS WILL BE THE NEED EVENTUALLY TO RELOCATE THE
CAPITAL OF MICRONESIA TO SOME FUTURE SITE TO BE
CHOSEN BY THE MICRONESIANS THEMSELVES. THE U.S. GOVERN-

MENT HAS LONG RECOGNIZED THAT, ONCE THIS DECISION IS MADE, IT WOULD THEN HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE FUNDING OF THE NEW CAPITAL. IT FULLY INTENDS TO CARRY OUT THIS RESPONSIBILITY. ONCE THE NATURE AND SIZE OF THE NEW CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA HAS BEEN DETERMINED AND A SITE SELECTED, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL WITH PROPER AUTHORITIES IN MICRONESIA ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUILDING OF A NEW CAPITAL.

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"AS TO THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE REMAINDER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, THE UNITED STATES STANDS READY TO RESUME THE TALKS WHEN THE MICRONESIANS ARE READY. WE WISH NEITHER TO DELAY NOR RUSH THE PEOPLES OF THE REMAINING DISTRICTS INTO A DECISION BEFORE THEY ARE READY TO MAKE THEIR CHOICE.

"IN ANY EVENT THE UNITED STATES WILL HONOR ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE PEOPLES OF THE REMAINING DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY WITH THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE FREELY THEIR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 6 OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT. THEY WILL HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE EXERCISED, AND ONCE THEY HAVE VOICED THEIR DECISION IN A PLEBISCITE, THE UNITED STATES WILL THEN MOVE TO TERMINATE THE TRUSTEESHIP FOR ALL DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE TARGET DATE FOR TERMINATION AS PROPOSED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS IN A 1980-81 TIMEFRAME. THE UNITED STATES SEES NO REASON WHY THIS DATE CANNOT BE MET ASSUMING THAT THE INTERNAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN MICRONESIA AS TO THEIR UNITY AND POLITICAL FUTURE WILL HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BY THAT TIME.

"IN THE MEANTIME THE ADMINISTRATION HOPES THAT THE SENATE WILL TAKE EARLY ACTION TO APPROVE THE MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT. THIS WILL ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THESE ISLANDS TO BEGIN THE FINAL STAGES OF THEIR QUEST FOR FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THEIR EVENTUAL ENTRY INTO THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP."

REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM J. CROWE, JR., REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TOLD THE COMMITTEE IN PART:

"WHILE THERE IS NO INTENTION OR AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANY MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, I KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION ABOUT THE LAND WE WE SEEK TO LEASE ... THE MARIANAS COVENANT DOES NOT REFLECT ANY NEW OR SUDDEN DESIRE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ACQUIRE LAND IN THIS AREA. FOR THE MOST PART, IT REPRESENTS A

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CONSOLIDATION OF ACREAGE SET ASIDE ON TINIAN AND SAIPAN
FOR MILITARY PURPOSES MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO, BUT
UNDER A NEW AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED DIRECTLY
WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS."

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